WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a storage phosphor reader for reading a latent image stored in a storage phosphor contained in a cassette, a cassette handling apparatus comprising:

a cassette platen and front plate for receiving a cassette having a storage phosphor;

a cassette centering guide mechanism for centering a received cassette on said cassette platen;

a cassette feed mechanism for moving a received cassette into contact with said front plate; and

a storage phosphor feed mechanism for feeding a storage phosphor out of a received cassette into said storage phosphor reader for processing.

2. The cassette handling apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cassette centering guide mechanism includes left and right cassette guides and means for moving said guides into and out of centering when received on said cassette platen.

3. The cassette handling apparatus of claim 2 wherein said means for moving includes a drive motor having a driven shaft and a pinion mounted on said driven shaft and left and right racks engaging said pinion and coupled respectively to said left and right cassette guides.

4. The cassette handling apparatus of claim 1 including a sensor assembly for sensing receipt of a cassette on said platen and for consequently initiating actuation of said cassette centering guide mechanism.

5. The cassette handling apparatus of claim 4 wherein said sensor assembly comprises a pair of sensors adapted to detect rough centering for several sizes of cassette.

6. The cassette handling apparatus of claim 1 wherein a cassette includes openings on its left and right sides and wherein said cassette feed mechanism includes left and right pawls that are adapted to be inserted into the cassette openings to drive the cassette against said front plate.

7. The cassette handling apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cassette feed mechanism includes a vertically movable member which presses a received cassette against said platen.

8. The cassette handling apparatus of claim 2 wherein said cassette centering mechanism includes means for preventing overloading of said force exerted by said guides against said cassette.

9. The cassette handling apparatus of claim 8 wherein said means for preventing includes an overload sensor assembly associated with at least one of said guides.

10. The cassette handling apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cassette includes a door which opens and closes and wherein said storage phosphor feed mechanism opens said cassette door before said storage phosphor is fed out of said cassette.